



**REPORT OF THE AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
AUDIT EXAMINATION OF THE
FORMER KNOX COUNTY CLERK**

Calendar Year 1998

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Edward B. Hatchett, Jr.
Auditor of Public Accounts

To the People of Kentucky
Honorable Paul E. Patton, Governor
John P. McCarty, Secretary
Finance and Administration Cabinet
Mike Haydon, Secretary, Revenue Cabinet
Honorable Gerald K. West, Knox County Judge/Executive
Honorable Mike Corey, Knox County Clerk
Honorable Edith Hampton, Former Knox County Clerk
Members of the Knox County Fiscal Court

The enclosed report prepared by Donna Bouvier, Certified Public Accountant, presents the statement of receipts, disbursements, and excess fees of the former County Clerk of Knox County, Kentucky, as of December 31, 1998.

We engaged Donna Bouvier, CPA, to perform the financial audit of this statement. We worked closely with the firm during our report review process; the resulting audit comports with our reporting format. As part of the audit, Donna Bouvier, CPA, evaluated the former Knox County Clerk's internal controls and compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward B. Hatchett, Jr.
Auditor of Public Accounts

Enclosure

AUDIT REPORT OF
FORMER KNOX COUNTY CLERK

Calendar Year 1998

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To the People of Kentucky
Honorable Paul Patton, Governor
John P. McCarty, Secretary
Finance and Administration Cabinet
Sarah Jane Schaaf, Secretary, Revenue Cabinet
Honorable Gerald K. West, County Judge/Executive
Honorable Mike Corey, Knox County Clerk
Honorable Edith Hampton, Former Knox County Clerk
Members of the Knox County Fiscal Court

Independent Auditor's Report

I have audited the accompanying statement of receipts, disbursements, and excess fees of the former County Clerk of Knox County, Kentucky, for the year ended December 31, 1998. This financial statement is the responsibility of the former County Clerk. My responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards, Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the Audit Guide for County Fee Officials issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Those standards require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. I believe that my audit provides a reasonable basis for my opinion.

As described in Note 1, the former County Clerk is required to prepare the financial statement on a prescribed basis of accounting that demonstrates compliance with the cash basis and laws of Kentucky, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles. This cash basis system does not require the maintenance of a general fixed asset group or general long-term debt group of accounts. Accordingly, the accompanying financial statement is not intended to present financial position and results of operations in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

To the People of Kentucky
Honorable Paul Patton, Governor
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Members of the Knox County Fiscal Court
(Continued)

In my opinion, the financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the receipts, disbursements, and excess fees of the former County Clerk for the year ended December 31, 1998, in conformity with the basis of accounting described above.

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, I have also issued a report dated October 29, 1999, on my consideration of the former County Clerk's compliance with certain laws and regulations and internal control over financial reporting.

Donna Bouvier
Certified Public Accountant

October 29, 1999

KNOX COUNTY
EDITH HAMPTON, FORMER COUNTY CLERK
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND EXCESS FEES

Calendar Year 1998

<u>Receipts</u>						
Library and Archives Grant				\$	193	
Fiscal Court					20,737	
Licenses and Taxes:						
Motor Vehicle-						
Licenses and Transfers			\$	566,638		
Usage Tax				1,960,388		
Tangible Personal Property Tax				1,023,217		
Licenses-						
Fish and Game				7,282		
Marriage				10,729		
Occupational				460		
Deed Transfer Tax				30,285		
Delinquent Tax				253,980	3,852,979	
Fees Collected for Services:						
Recordings-						
Deeds, Easements and Contracts			\$	16,067		
Real Estate Mortgages				24,491		
Chattel Mortgages and						
Financing Statements				86,637		
Powers of Attorney				1,390		
All Other Recordings				21,559	150,144	
Copywork					5,048	
Interest Earned					7,796	
Miscellaneous					19,747	
Gross Receipts Carried Forward				\$	4,056,644	

KNOX COUNTY
EDITH HAMPTON, FORMER COUNTY CLERK
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND EXCESS FEES
Calendar Year 1998
(Continued)

Gross Receipts Brought Forward					\$ 4,056,644
<u>Disbursements</u>					
Library and Archives			\$ 193		
Payments to State:					
Motor Vehicle-					
Licenses and Transfers		\$ 431,475			
Usage Tax		1,892,627			
Tangible Personal Property Tax		387,753			
Licenses-					
Fish and Game		7,252			
Candidate Filing Fees		510			
Delinquent Tax		36,269			
Legal Process Tax		25,910	2,781,796		
Payments to Fiscal Court:					
Tangible Personal Property Tax		\$ 99,699			
Deed Transfer Tax		26,069			
Delinquent Tax		28,526			
Occupational Licenses		268	154,562		
Payments to Other Districts:					
Tangible Personal Property Tax		\$ 488,410			
Delinquent Tax		111,860	600,270		
Payments to Sheriff			11,215		
Payments to County Attorney			45,082		
Operating Disbursements:					
Personal Services-					
Deputies Salaries		\$ 194,496			
Corbin Office-Commissions		13,921			

KNOX COUNTY
EDITH HAMPTON, FORMER COUNTY CLERK
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND EXCESS FEES
Calendar Year 1998
(Continued)

<u>Disbursements (Continued)</u>						
Operating Disbursements (Continued):						
Employee Benefits-						
Employer's Share Social Security		\$ 17,691				
Employer's Share Health Insurance		20,000				
Life/Cancer Insurance		394				
Contracted Services-						
Election Equipment		17,165				
Indexing Equipment and Software		27,129				
Supplies and Materials		18,029				
Other Charges-						
Conventions and Travel		822				
Dues		950				
Postage		5,192				
Advertising		180				
Bank Charges		65				
Refunds		16,817		\$ 332,851		
Total Disbursements						\$ 3,925,969
Net Receipts						\$ 130,675
Less: Statutory Maximum						44,796
Excess Fees (Carried Forward)						\$ 85,879
Less: Expense Allowance						3,300
Excess Fees Due County for Calendar Year 1997						\$ 82,579
Payments to County Treasurer-February 9, 1999				\$ 50,000		
		October 29, 1999		32,489		
		November 1, 1999		90		82,579
Balance Due at Completion of Audit						\$ -

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statement.

KNOX COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

December 31, 1998

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Fund Accounting

A fee official uses a fund to report on the results of operations. A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain government functions or activities.

A fee official uses a fund for fees to account for activities for which the government desires periodic determination of the excess of receipts over disbursements to facilitate management control, accountability, and compliance with laws.

B. Basis of Accounting

The financial statement has been prepared on a cash basis of accounting pursuant to Kentucky Revised Statute (KRS) 68.210 as recommended by the State Local Finance Officer. Revenues and related assets are generally recognized when received rather than when earned. Certain expenses are recognized when paid rather than when a liability is incurred, including capital asset purchases. Certain other expenses are recognized when a revenue and the related asset can be associated with a corresponding liability due another governmental entity.

The measurement focus of a fee official is upon excess fees. Remittance of excess fees is due to the County Treasurer in the subsequent year.

C. Cash and Investments

At the direction of the fiscal court, KRS 66.480 authorizes the County Clerk's office to invest in the following, including but not limited to, obligations of the United States and of its agencies and instrumentalities, obligations and contracts for future delivery or purchase of obligations backed by the full faith and credit of the United States, obligations of any corporation of the United States government, bonds or certificates

KNOX COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
December 31, 1998
(Continued)

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

C. Cash and Investments (Continued)

of indebtedness of this state, and certificates of deposit issued by or other interest-bearing accounts of any bank or savings and loan institution which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or which are collateralized, to the extent uninsured, by any obligation permitted by KRS 41.240(4).

NOTE 2: EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT SYSTEM

The county officials and employees have elected to participate in the County Employee Retirement System (CERS) pursuant to KRS 78.530 administered by the Board of Trustees of the Kentucky Retirement Systems. This is a multiple employer public retirement system which covers all eligible full-time employees. Benefit contributions and provisions are established by statute. Nonhazardous covered employees are required to contribute 5.0 percent of their salary to the plan. The county's contribution rate for nonhazardous employees was 8.65 percent.

Benefits fully vest on reaching five years of service for nonhazardous employees. Aspects of benefits for nonhazardous employees include retirement after 27 years of service or age 65.

Historical trend information pertaining to CERS' progress in accumulating sufficient assets to pay benefits when due is present in the Kentucky Retirement System's annual financial report which is a matter of public record.

NOTE 3: DEPOSITS

The County Clerk maintained deposits with depository institutions insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). According to law, the depository institution should pledge or provide sufficient collateral which, together with FDIC insurance, equals or exceeds the amount on deposit at all times. In order to be valid against the FDIC in the event of failure or insolvency of the depository institution, this pledge or provision of collateral should be evidenced by an agreement that is (a) in writing, (b) approved by the board of directors of the depository institution or its loan committee, which approval must be reflected in the minutes of the board or committee, and (c) an

KNOX COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
December 31, 1998
(Continued)

NOTE 3: DEPOSITS (Continued)

official record of the depository institution. The former County Clerk met the requirements stated above, and as of April 30, 1998, deposits were fully insured or collateralized at a 100% level with collateral held by the county official's agent in the county official's name.

REPORT ON COMPLIANCE
AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL
REPORTING BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT
PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

Honorable Gerald K. West, County Judge/Executive
Honorable Mike Corey, Knox County Clerk
Honorable Edith Hampton, Former Knox County Clerk
Members of the Knox County Fiscal Court

Report On Compliance And On Internal Control
Over Financial Reporting Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards

I have audited the former Knox County Clerk as of December 31, 1998, and have issued my report thereon dated October 29, 1999. I conducted my audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the former Knox County Clerk's financial statement as of December 31, 1998, is free of material misstatement, I performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws and regulations, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of my audit and, accordingly, I do not express such an opinion. The results of my tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing my audit, I considered the former Knox County Clerk's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine my auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing my opinion on the financial statement and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. My consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one of more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statement being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. I noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that I consider to be material weaknesses.

Gerald K. West, County Judge/Executive
Honorable Mike Corey, Knox County Clerk
Honorable Edith Hampton, Former Knox County Clerk
Members of the Knox County Fiscal Court
Report On Compliance And On Internal Control
Over Financial Reporting Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards
(Continued)

This report is intended for the information of management. However, this report, upon release by the Auditor of Public Accounts, is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

Donna Bouvier
Certified Public Accountant

October 29, 1999